

NEWS RELEASE

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SETTLEMENT IN BEVERLY FARMS CASE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that the U. S. Attorney's Office and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan, today reached a settlement with Beverly Farm Foundation, Inc., in a civil case in which the government alleged that Beverly Farm defrauded the government when it was reimbursed after submitting false claims for employee training received between 1998 and 2000.

The foundation operates Beverly Farm, a residential facility housing approximately 400 adults with developmental disabilities at located in Godfrey. The foundation provides and bills for the required training and certification of some Beverly Farm health care workers known as habilitation aides. Such training is eligible for reimbursement by the government.

The complaint, previously filed in U.S. District Court in East St. Louis, alleged that Beverly Farm Foundation billed the Medicaid program, funded by the federal and state sources, for training which was not properly provided or supervised. According to the complaint, between 1998 and 2000, the foundation allegedly failed to give the required number of hours of instruction to habilitation aides, failed to complete the training within the required time and failed to properly administer tests.

Further, the complaint alleged that Beverly Farm Foundation submitted the false claims to the Illinois Department of Human Services and that the agency reimbursed the claims with federal and state funds. These acts allegedly violated the Federal False Claims Act and the Illinois Whistleblower Reward and Protection Act.

The settlement today resolves the government's claims. Beverly Farm agreed and has paid \$14,011.62 to the State of Illinois and \$14,011.62 to the United States of America.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Liam Coonan and Nathan Wyatt and Assistant Attorney General Bradley Hart of Madigan's Medicaid Fraud Bureau.